

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ISO-00 IO-14 PC-10 INT-08 COME-00

IGA-02 AGR-20 DODE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-15 FDRE-00 EB-11

XMB-07 OMB-01 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

DRC-01 /198 W

----- 053733

R 040800Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1856

INFO AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

US MISSION EC BRUSSELS 093

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 0101

AFDROUGHT

AF/N FOR AMBASSADOR MURPHY AND MONTVILLE, PC/W FOR STEEDMAN
PARIS FOR HELLMAN

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: MAURITANIAN TRUCKS AND MAINTANENCE

REF: STATE ;22031, NOUAKCHOTT A-2 AND 0025 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: STATE REFTEL REQUESTS INFORMATION ON GIRM EMERGENCY
GRAIN DISTRIBUTION TRUCK FLEET, SPARE PART AND REPAIR
SERVICES. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES CURRENT STATUS ABOVE GIRM
EMERGENCY TRANSPORT ACTIVITIES AND OTHER DONOR TRANSPORT ASSISTANCE.
ACTION REQUESTED: AF/N CONTACT MACK TRUCKS INTERNATIONAL,
ALLENTOWN, PENNA. RE PARA FIVE BELOW.

1. GIRM EMERGENCY GRAIN DISTRIBUTION TRUCK FLEET BUILD UP
TO LEVEL SOME 160 VEHICLES (NOUAKCHOTT 0025) DURING 1973.
AS OF JANUARY 1974, HOWEVER, MINHEALTH TOLD US FIFTY PERCENT
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OF FLEET SIDE-LINED BY MECHANICAL BREAKDOWNS. MINISTER--GIRM

DROUGHT RELIEF COORDINATOR-- COMPLAINED HE UNABLE FIND NECESSARY SPARE PARTS, WHICH NOT STOCKED IN QUANTITY BY LOCAL DISTRIBUTORS BUT LACK TRAINED MECHANICS ALSO CRUCIAL FACTOR. JUST LAST WEEK, MINISTER APPROACHED BOTH FRENCH AND FRG EMBASSIES REQUESTING THEY INTERVENE WITH MANUFACTURERS (BERLIET AND MERCEDES RESPECTIVELY) TO ASSURE FASTEST ACTION NEW GIRM ORDER FOR 80 TEN TO TWELVE-TON TRUCKS FOR DELIVERY BEFORE JUNE. SO FAR AS WE KNOW, NEITHER CURRENT NOR PREVIOUS GIRM TRUCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS INCLUDED AFTER-SALES SERVICE, THOUGH SOME SMALL BUT OBVIOUSLY INSUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF SPARE PARTS WERE INCLUDED IN 1973 CONTRACTS. GIVEN FED PLANS ASSURE SPARE PARTS/MAINTENANCE FOR GRAIN TRANSPORT FLEET UNDER ITS 1974 DROUGHT EMERGENCY PROGRAM (PARA 2 BELOW), BELIEVE GIRM HAS NO PLANS APPROACH FRANCE OR FRG FOR ADDITIONAL HELP AT THIS TIME.

2. AS REPORTED IN NOUAKCHOTT A-2 OF JAN 14, FED 1974 DROUGHT EMERGENCY CONTRIBUTIONS INCLUDE DOLLARS 2.6 MILLION FOR TRANSPORT EMERGENCY FOOD AND MEDICINES FED PLANS PURCHASE 80 TEN TO TWELVE-TON TRUCKS (PROBABLY MERCEDES AND BERLIET) FOR ADDITION TO GIRM FLEET, AND WILL CONTRACT DIRECT WITH MANUFACTURERS FOR LARGE SPARE PARTS PACKAGE AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR SERVICING/ REPAIRS. (NOTE: FED PURCHASE 80 LORRIES IS IN ADDITION TO AND ENTIRELY SEPARATE FROM GIRM PURCHASE 80 LORRIES NOTED PARA ONE ABOVE) FED WILL ALSO CONTRACT LOCALLY FOR AFTER SALES SERVICE BUT FEELS IT MUST HAVE RESIDENT, FACTORY-TRAINED PERSONNEL TO KEEP GIRM TRUCK FLEET RUNNING.

3. LOCAL UNICEF REP IS ALSO PROPOSING TO HIS HEADQUARTERS HIS AGENCY CREATE REPAIR-SPARE PARTS DEPOT IN NOUAKCHOTT FOR SERVICING UNICEF-DONATED AND OTHER GIRM VEHICLES, PARTICULARLY THOSE USED IN HEALTH, AGRICULTURE AND OTHER DROUGHT-RELATED PROGRAMS. THIS PROPOSAL DISCUSSED WITH EMBOFFS AND PEACE CORPS REP STAGLIANO IN LATE JANUARY. UNDERSTAND STAGLIANO WILL WANT TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE RECRUITMENT PC MECHANICS FOR THIS PROPOSED PROJECT DURING HIS CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, WHICH BEGIN THIS WEEK

4. CENTRAL TO ANY DISCUSSION OF DROUGHT EMERGENCY TRANSPORT PROBLEMS IS QUESTION OF GASOLINE-DIESEL FUEL SUPPLIES IN INTERIOR UNCLASSIFIED

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MAURITANIA, PARTICULARLY IN FIRST (NEMA), SECOND (AIOUN), THIRD (KAEDI), FOURTH (KIFFA) AND FIFTH (ALEG) REGIONS. VEHICLE FUEL SHORTAGES THESE HARDEST DROUGH-HIT AREAS IS CHRONIC DUE SMALL LOCAL TANKER TRUCK CAPACITY AND POOR LOGISTICAL ORGANIZATION ON PART GIRM AND SUPPLIERS. GIRM BEGAN LAST WEEK TO MOVE TOWARD SOLUTION THIS PROBLEM BY NAMING NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANY (SNIM) CHIEF ISMAEL OULD AMAR TO COORDINATE FUEL SHIPMENT TO INTERIOR TOWNS. OULD AMAR TELLS US HE MUST

BUY OR LEASE MINIMUM 50 TANKER TRUCKS. HE HAS ASKED EMBASSY ASSISTANCE IN FINDING POTENTIAL US SUPPLIER. WE HAVE ALERTED THOMAS A. WASHINGTON (TAW) LEASING AF HEAD-QUARTERS IN ABIDJAN TO ABOVE PROSPECT, AND RECEIVED REPLY SAYING TAW REP WOULD VISIT NOUAKCHOTT EARLY THIS MONTH FOR LOOK-SEE.

5. RECOMMEND DEPARTMENT CONTACT MACK TRUCK INTERNATIONAL AND SEEK EXPRESSION OF INTEREST ABOVE PROSPECT PRIOR PLANNED MACK REP VISIT HERE MID-FEBRUARY. MACK WOULD, OF COURSE, HAVE TO GUARANTEE SOME TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SPARE PARTS SERVICE IN ORDER LAND CONTRACT. EXIM AND US PRIVATE BANK FINANCING WOULD ALSO BE NECESSARY UNLESS AID CAN FIND MEANS FINANCE ALL OR PART SUCH PURCHASE UNDER DROUGHT PROGRAMS. FINANCING, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR MAINTENANCE AND SPARE PARTS SUPPLIES BEING ASSURED, US MANUFACTURER WOULD FIND GIRM NOT AT ALL ADVERSE TO ADDING US-MADE VEHICLES TO ITS INVENTORY. SHURTLEFF

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